

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claim 1 (Original)** A self-locking carbon adsorbent comprising a carbon nanohorn aggregate provided with one or more openings in the wall part thereof, wherein a substance to be adsorbed passes through the opening in one limited direction from the outside to inside of the carbon nanohorn in isothermal or isobaric adsorption.

**Claim 2 (Original)** A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 1, wherein the substance to be adsorbed is gas which is put in a supercritical state at room temperature.

**Claim 3 (Currently Amended)** A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the substance to be adsorbed is methane gas and the methane gas is allowed to be adsorbed in a quasi-liquid state in the inside of the carbon nanohorn.

**Claim 4 (Original)** A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 3, wherein the methane gas adsorption ability  $V/V_s$  (where  $V$  represents the volume of gas to be adsorbed and  $V_s$  represents the volume of an adsorbent) is 150 or more at 303 K under a pressure of 3.5 MPa.

**Claim 5 (New)** A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 2, wherein the substance to be adsorbed is methane gas and the methane gas is allowed to be adsorbed in a quasi-liquid state in the inside of the carbon nanohorn.

**Claim 6 (New)** A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 5, wherein the methane gas adsorption ability  $V/V_s$  (where  $V$  represents the volume of gas to be adsorbed and  $V_s$  represents the volume of an adsorbent) is 150 or more at 303 K under a pressure of 3.5 MPa.